



FARMER'S CLASS: AUTUMN 1



Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome to St Mary's Catholic Primary School. I am delighted to welcome both our new families who are joining us for the very first time, and those returning after the summer break. For some children, this is the exciting beginning of their school journey, while for others it is the next step as they continue to grow and flourish with us. It is a joy to share this special time with your children, and in this letter I will provide you with an overview of the Autumn term, including the key areas of our learning and some of the activities that we have planned for our first theme: All About Me!

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

In Personal, Social and Emotional Development, we will be focusing on helping the children to build positive relationships with both their peers and adults in our class, knowing that they can ask for help when they need it. They will learn how to play together in our new classroom environment, taking turns with toys and resources, with gentle support when needed. Through stories and discussions, we will explore feelings and emotions, encouraging children to express them to a familiar adult or special friend. The children will also begin to listen carefully to our class rules and expectations, gradually learning to follow them. Additionally, we will support the children in feeling confident as they separate from their caregivers each morning.



Communication and Language

In Communication and Language we will be focusing on developing the children's listening and attention skills. This includes gathering on the carpet for story time, joining in with songs and rhymes, and following instructions from adults throughout the day. Reception children will also work on listening to an adult during focused activities and following simple instructions to complete tasks. We will also be starting Sing and Sign this term during which the children will learn Makaton Sign Language alongside songs. This term our focus will be on learning the signs to express their emotions and basic needs such as 'toilet', 'help' and 'more'



Physical Development

In Physical Development, we will focus on both fine and gross motor skills. For gross motor skills, the children will work on developing their core muscle strength to enable them to sit on the carpet with good posture when sitting on the floor or at the table, as well as learning to safely use the tools and equipment in the classroom. They will also be focusing on peddling the bikes and using a three wheeled scooter safely whilst navigating obstacles. Our focus for fine motor skills will be to improve hand strength and dexterity. To support with this we will be making lots of play-dough in our dough-making station! Furthermore the children in pre-school will be learning to use a palm grip when using mark making tools, whilst reception children will be refining their technique and beginning to move towards a tripod grip for more precise control. In PE the children will be working on ball skills.





Literacy

This term, Reception children will begin daily Read, Write Inc. phonic sessions to teach them key skills for reading and writing. They will bring home supporting material so that they can continue their learning at home, including a reading book when they are ready to do so. The sound book will be dated to indicate which sound has been taught in school that day. Please ensure that the sound books are kept in your child's book bag when not in use as they will be used in school regularly. Please date and comment in your child's school planner when they have shared their new sound with you or if they have read to you, and allow them to colour in a square for the Reading Challenge which can be found at the back of the planners. Additionally, we will be reading and doing some work around The Colour Monster to support our learning in other areas, as well as developing early skills such as handling books carefully, recognising their own name, and beginning mark-making and name writing.

Maths

In maths we will be exploring a variety of foundational concepts. The children will begin by learning about matching and sorting objects by looking at what is the same and what is different, and making simple AB patterns. In number, we will be concentrating on identifying and subitising a number of objects to 5, numbers bonds to 5 and recognising numerals to five.



Understanding the World

In Understanding the World, we will be talking about our families and the important people in our lives. The children will also begin to reflect on their own life stories, discussing how they have grown and changed since they were babies. To celebrate this learning, we will all be making our own All About Me book that will live in our small world area of the classroom. Children are encouraged to bring in photographs of themselves and the people who are special to them, drawings, leaflets from trips that have been important to them, and anything else that is significant or meaningful. These can also be emailed to me if you would like me to print them. As part of our exploration of the natural world, we will start to observe and understand seasonal changes, with a focus on spotting the signs of autumn all around us.



Art and Design

In Art and Design the children will engage in a variety of creative activities. The children will learn how to make play-dough to the correct consistency. We will also be experimenting with colour mixing to explore how new colours are made. The children will be listening to a range of music types and beginning to move their bodies in time to the music. In imaginative play, the children will begin to use a range of resources to inspire their creativity.



Religious Education

In RE this term, our unit is Creation and Covenant. The children will be learning that God made the world and everything in it, and that each of us is a unique and special creation of His love. We will spend time exploring how God asks us to care for His world and for one another, showing kindness and respect in our everyday actions. Through stories, songs, prayer, and creative activities, the children will reflect on the beauty of creation and begin to understand the promises (covenants) God made with His people. This learning will help the children to see themselves as part of God's family, precious and loved, with an important role to play in caring for His world.



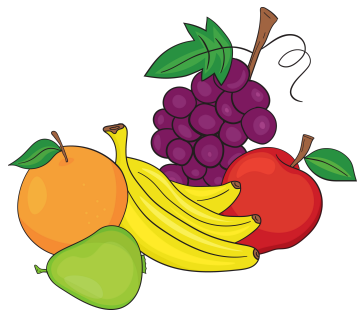
Dates for your Diary

Tuesday: 1pm Forest School. Children can come to school in non-uniform and bring their waterproofs and wellies in a bag.

Wednesday: 1pm PE. Children can wear their PE kits into school.
2:30pm Celebration Assembly. Parents welcome.

Friday: 1pm Dance. PE kit not required





Snack and Milk

All children in Fisherman Class are provided with a healthy snack each day that is enjoyed in the morning with a story. If your child does not like the fruit that is offered they are welcome to bring a healthy alternative. Please note that crisps, chocolate sweets and biscuits will not be permitted. Children are also offered milk until they turn 5 for free. Once your child has turned 5, they can still have milk at snack time, but it must be paid for by the parents at a subsidised rate. Please speak to the school office if you would like to arrange buying milk for your child once they have turned 5.

Information Evening

I will be hosting an Information on Wednesday 17th September, 6:20–7pm. All parents are warmly invited to attend so that we can share more information with you about the forthcoming academic year, statutory assessments, Read Write Inc. Phonics, maths and answer any questions that you may have. Whilst children are welcome to attend, we suggest making childcare arrangements where possible so that you are able to take part fully without distraction and make the most of the session. We hope that you are able to attend, but if not please get in touch or speak to one of us at the end of the school day if you have any questions.



Thank you for your support as we look forward to an exciting year!

Best wishes,

Mrs Sammie Vale

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